



WOODWORKING MACHINES



Woodworking machines are dangerous. They are specifically designed to cut, plane, shave, drill, bore, etc., and they usually do a good job – regardless of the material. They must always be treated with respect. First-time users should always ask for instructions on safe operation from someone with a good operating knowledge of the machine in question.

General Guidelines for Woodworking Machines:

- Always wear safety glasses, dust mask, and hearing protection (if needed).
- Make sure all guards are in place and functioning correctly.
- Ensure all equipment is properly grounded.
- Avoid awkward operations or body positions that could result in a slip of hand.
- Remove keys and adjustment wrenches before turning on the power.
- Inspect stock for nails or other materials before beginning the cutting, planing, etc.
- Make sure all start / stop switches and buttons are in easy reach.
- All cutting tools and blades should be clean, sharp, and in good working order.
- Always use a push stick or other device to push the material into the cutting area.
- Clamp down the material when drilling, milling, or routing.
- Use good, adequate lighting that does not reflect or shine into the operator's eyes.
- Ensure the floor space around the machine is free of tripping hazards.
- Keep the entire work area free of clutter and scrap.
- Electric cords should be above head level where they do not create a tripping hazard.

Do Not:

- Wear loose clothing, work gloves or jewelry that can become entangled in moving parts.
- Remove sawdust or cuttings while machine is running. Use a brush, not compressed air.
- Leave a running machine unattended. Stay with the machine until cutting has stopped.
- Try to free a stalled blade without first turning off the power.
- Distract a machine operator at any time. Horseplay is deadly.